

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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CORNELL PLANTATIONS AND TIOGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED MUSEUM GRANTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) has awarded grants for general operating support to Cornell Plantations in Ithaca and the Tioga County Historical Society in Owego. Cornell Plantations will receive \$112,500 and the Tioga County Historical Society will receive \$25,247.

"The IMLS grant program for general operating support is a great resource because it doesn't force applicants to make their programs fit into a particular niche," said Hinchey. "IMLS just identifies quality institutions and gives them a financial boost."

Cornell Plantations consists of the arboretum, botanical garden, and natural areas of Cornell University. Plantations is currently planning for the growth of its infrastructure, programs, and staffing. The IMLS award will be used to help carry out these plans by addressing some specific needs of its primary audiences. This will include projects to improve the interpretation of its collections and to increase visitation to its holdings.

"Receiving this general operating support from IMLS is particularly appreciated at this time of economic uncertainty," said Don Rakow, Director of Cornell Plantations. "Cornell Plantations intends to use this support to expand our horticultural collections and natural areas and to educate our key audiences, the residents of New York."

The Tioga County Historical Society will use its IMLS funding to continue its educational programming for children and adults. The grant will also go towards maintaining historic documents and artifacts.

"This is very important funding," said Tioga County Historical Society Director Kent Ahrens. "Unlike most grants that go toward special projects, this grant will help us with our across-the-board operating cost."

The competition for these two-year grants was intense, with only 21 percent of applicants receiving funding. Each grant is equal to 15 percent of the recipient's operating income up to a maximum of \$112,500.